



# STATE OF ILLINOIS

## Torture Inquiry and Relief Commission

**Pat Quinn**  
Governor

April 11, 2011

### Commissioners

**Patricia Brown Holmes**  
Chair

Leonard Cavise

Daniel Coyne

Paul Roldan

Neil Toppel

Rob Warden

Andrea Zopp

### Alternate Commissioners

Bernetta Bush

Doris Green

Marcie Thorp

Janette Wilson

**David Thomas**  
Executive Director

Dear Potential Claimant:

The purpose of this letter is to introduce you to the Illinois Torture Inquiry and Relief Commission. You are receiving this letter because your name has been given to the Commission as a person who might have a claim the Commission should investigate once its rules and procedures are in place.

The Commission is in the process of adopting rules of procedure, as required by state law, and cannot take any action on a claim until that process is completed. This letter is solely to provide you information about the Commission and how to file a claim. It is not a guarantee or promise at this point that the Commission will take any particular action regarding your case.

The Commission has been established to investigate the claims of persons convicted of felonies in Illinois who allege they were tortured into confessing to the crime of which they were convicted, and the coerced confession was used to obtain that conviction. Priority is given to cases where the person is incarcerated only for a conviction which he claims is based upon a confession obtained by torture conducted by Jon Burge or an officer under his supervision.

If a claim is made, and the Commission's investigation determines that the claim is credible and merits judicial review, the case will be referred to the Cook County Circuit Court, where a judge may enter appropriate relief. It does not matter if the person making the claim has already lost a post-conviction petition or has a petition pending; the Commission is mandated to take a fresh look at the cases described above. A person making a claim is entitled to representation by counsel throughout the investigation.

Commission has no authority to award money, even if it believes the claim is credible. In addition, the convicted person must give up his privilege against self-incrimination as to the offense which he claims resulted from torture, and he must agree to cooperate with the Commission throughout its investigation.

A claim form is enclosed with this letter. If you believe you have a claim as described above, you are invited to send the form to the Commission's Office at 160 N. LaSalle, room 506, Chicago, IL 60601. If you are represented by counsel, you should tell your lawyer about this letter as soon as possible and ask the lawyer to contact me. As indicated on the form, your lawyer or another person you choose may file the claim form on your behalf.

Finally, if you know others who may have a claim the Commission should investigate, please tell them about the Commission and ask them to write to the Office and request a claim form if they are interested.

Yours very truly,

David C. Thomas  
Executive Director